



# CONGRESSWOMAN DEBORAH ROSS

REPRESENTING  NORTH CAROLINA'S 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

***This week marks the 100th day of the 117th Congress. In that time, I've worked with my colleagues to pass important pieces of legislation. Take a look at some of the major bills that have passed the House since the beginning of this Congress and my work on behalf of the 2<sup>nd</sup> district of North Carolina:***

## **Congresswoman Ross' first 100 days by the numbers:**

- 1 bill introduced – the bipartisan *Protecting Job Opportunities for Borrowers (JOBS) Act*
  - The legislation would prevent states from suspending, revoking, or denying state-issued driver's licenses, teaching licenses, and other professional licenses solely because borrowers are behind on their federal student loan payments. Full release [here](#).
- 3 amendments passed the House
- Led 7 letters and signed onto 45 letters
- Cosponsored over 100 bills; 54 are bipartisan
- 19,428 constituent letters answered
- Over 200 constituent meetings in DC & the district
- 16 roundtables, town halls, and site visits
- Closed 168 constituent cases

## ***Major Bills in Order they Passed the House of Representatives***

### **H.R. 447, National Apprenticeship Act**

The National Apprenticeship Act, which passed the House of February 5, will provide nearly one million new apprenticeship opportunities, save taxpayers by having to spend less on unemployment programs, and update the original National Apprenticeship Act. **The legislation passed with Rep. Ross' first amendment.**

- The amendment directs additional resources to support the recruitment of nontraditional populations and dislocated workers – including people of color, women, and the many people who are currently unemployed. The full release can be found [here](#).

### **H.R. 5, Equality Act**

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Ross voted to pass H.R. 5, the Equality Act, which explicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Equality Act extends anti-discrimination protections not just in the workplace, but in other public fields—in education, access to credit, jury service, federal funding, housing and public accommodations, and more. A full release can be found [here](#).

### **H.R. 1, For the People Act**

Passed on March 3, H.R. 1 would strengthen access to the ballot box and make it easier for Americans to exercise their right to vote, put in place national redistricting reform, end the influence of dark money in politics, and strengthen election security to safeguard our elections.

In North Carolina, Rep Ross has seen the effects of the many reforms the state implemented to make voting easier. Because of these reforms, North Carolina saw record voter turnout in the state in 2020. The For the People Act builds on this progress by protecting the right to vote, ensuring the integrity of our elections, holding elected officials accountable, and ending the rule of special interests. [Rep. Ross penned an op-ed on the issue.](#)

### **H.R. 1280, George Floyd Justice in Policing Act**

Rep. Ross voted to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act on March 3 to address racial bias in policing, ensure accountability for police brutality and misconduct, and work to change the culture of law enforcement to promote better relationships with the communities they serve.

### **H.R. 1319, American Rescue Plan**

This comprehensive legislation, which passed the House on March 10 and was signed into law on March 11, helps struggling American families put food on their tables and pay their bills. It also provides resources to bring the COVID-19 pandemic to an end, including for increased vaccine distribution and to safely reopen schools. The American Rescue Plan provides small businesses with the tools they need to keep their business afloat and provide financial relief to struggling restaurants. A full release can be found [here](#).

### **H.R. 8, Bipartisan Background Checks Act**

Passed on March 11, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act will help make communities safer by requiring background checks for every gun purchase.

### **H.R. 1446, Enhanced Background Checks Act**

This bill would end the dangerous Charleston Loophole and prevent gun sales from being approved before background checks are completed.

The press release for H.R. 8 & H.R. 1446 can be found [here](#).

### **H.J.Res. 17, Removing the Deadline for the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment**

The legislation would remove the arbitrary 1982 deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The resolution passed the House on March 17.

### **H.R. 1260, Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act**

Legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) passed the House on March 17 and would build upon the original law by authorizing further resources to support victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. **Congresswoman Ross secured two amendments in VAWA.**

- The first amendment aims to protect the safety and privacy of survivors by creating a statutory mandate that a victim's safety should be central to housing decisions made by covered housing providers.
- The second amendment allows certain grants in the bill to be used to create databases detailing where sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) nurses are located. In North Carolina, SANE nurses can be difficult to locate, and some survivors of assault have to travel to multiple hospitals or wait hours for a SANE nurse to come on duty. [Congresswoman Ross spoke on the House Floor today highlighting these two amendments.](#)

## **H.R. 6, Dream and Promise Act**

This bill provides a pathway to citizenship for 3.4 million Dreamers, TPS Holders, DED beneficiaries, and children of long-term work visa holders who have been essential members of our communities, contributed to our economy, and strengthened our nation. The bill passed the House on March 18. A full release can be found [here](#).

## **H.R. 1799, PPP Extension Act**

This legislation, which passed the House on March 16 and was signed into law on March 30, extends the Paycheck Protection Program through June 30, 2021. The additional time will help small businesses eligible for the program obtain relief. A full release can be found [here](#).

## **Letters led by Congresswoman Ross**

In addition to cosponsoring and advancing legislation, Congresswoman Ross has heard directly from NC-02 constituents on their priorities. Here are a few letters she has led to address them:

### **Helping our Veterans:**

#### **Congresswoman Ross Urges VA to Fix Flooding and Drainage Issues at Raleigh National Cemetery**

Rep. Ross sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), urging an expeditious fix flooding and draining issues at the Raleigh National Cemetery. Due to these issues, the graves of dozens of servicemembers who fought in World War II, the Vietnam War, and the Korean War are frequently left underwater after heavy rainfall. Full release can be found [here](#).

#### **Representatives Ross, Davidson Urge the NPRC to Address the Backlog of Veteran Personnel File Requests in Order to Help Veterans Access Benefits**

With a backlog of nearly 500,000 record requests, the NPRC has left thousands of veterans waiting to receive their COVID vaccines, GI Bill benefits, and more. Representatives Ross and Warren Davidson (OH-08) led a bipartisan letter signed by 185 members of Congress urging the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) to address the backlog of veteran personnel file requests, which has grown significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter can be found [here](#).

#### **Congresswoman Ross Requests Information on Planned VA Clinic in Garner**

Congresswoman Ross requested a briefing from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on a planned outpatient multi-specialty clinic in Garner, North Carolina. Specifically, Ross is asking for more information about the timeline for construction and the services the clinic could offer to veterans in Wake County and the surrounding area. Upon completion, the clinic could serve approximately 25,000 North Carolinian veterans. The letter can be found [here](#).

### **Positioning NC as a leader in offshore wind:**

#### **Representatives Ross, Rouzer Urge Biden Administration to Support North Carolina Offshore Wind Industry**

Congresswoman Ross and David Rouzer (NC-07) led the North Carolina delegation in sending a letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director Amanda Lefton expressing support for the Bureau's efforts to promptly and responsibly advance lease sales of existing wind energy areas (WEAs) and identify new WEAs off the coast of North Carolina. The state has the potential to be a

national leader in offshore wind energy generation capacity, research, and manufacturing. The offshore wind industry is projected to invest nearly \$140 billion in the U.S. by 2035 for the manufacturing, construction, and maintenance of offshore wind projects. Full release can be found [here](#).

### **Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic**

#### **Congresswoman Ross Leads Letter Urging Extended Relief for Restaurants**

North Carolina's \$21.4 billion restaurant industry is vital to the economy and accounts for 56% of all jobs lost in the state during the pandemic. Congresswoman Ross led a letter with the North Carolina democratic delegation urging House leadership to make independent restaurants a top priority in COVID-19 stimulus negotiations. The letter can be found [here](#).

#### **Following a North Carolina delegation letter led by Ross and McHenry, IRS and Treasury extend tax filing deadline**

Representatives Ross and McHenry led the North Carolina delegation in a letter to the IRS Commissioner and the Treasury Department requesting an extension to the federal tax filing deadline. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tax filing deadline was extended from April to May. Full letter can be found [here](#).

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